

Habitat Happenings



News and Events from **Runge Conservation Nature Center** • November/December 2014 *Serving nature and you*

As a fast moving, technologically induced society, we do not necessarily need to rely on the use of primitive skills (pre-industrial technology) to survive. However, slowing down and engaging in primitive skills can connect us to the ways of our ancestors and relive the moments they experienced. Below are a few examples of Missouri's historic way of life that many still use today.

FLINTKNAPPING: What is it? A technique of making tools, spears, knives, or arrowheads by a process of chipping away material from high silica stones, like flint or chert. Flintknapping was an important skill for Native Americans and early settlers to have. Creating the tools for hunting and gathering was just as important as the food itself. Flintknappers today use their skills for hobby and craft; although they may also use the tools they create in everyday life as well.

CREATING CORDAGE: What is it? Cordage is thread, string, or rope and primitively, native plants were used to create these items. Early settlers and Native Americans used cordage in a variety of ways, such as wild game snares, fishing nets and line, bow strings, hammocks, and bags. You will find many creative people today who have rediscovered this primitive skill and are crafting cordage from the tree bark or stem fibers

Let's Get Primitive!



Primitive- adj. relating to, denoting, or preserving the character of an early stage in the evolutionary or historical development of something.

of native plants. Crafts created from cordage such as bracelets, handbags, and baskets are showcased at festivals and art shops.

ATLATL: What is it? A spear-throwing device that predates the modern bow and arrow. Hunters place a dart onto a wooden board/shaft and throw it forward using the upper arm and wrist. This propels the dart with speeds up to 100 mph. In the Americas, dating back to 11,000 B.C., the atlatl was used to hunt mammoths and mastodons. Today, Missouri hunters can legally use an atlatl as a method for taking many game and fish species, including white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and bullfrogs.

Step back in time. Explore your heritage by engaging in some primitive activities offered throughout our newsletter. You might just find a new skill or hobby.

—Becky Matney,
Naturalist



Volunteer News

As one year winds down and a new year approaches, we often take stock of what has been accomplished.

A Look Back.

A quick look shows in this past fiscal year (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014), Runge volunteers offered more programs and worked more hours than last year. This year they presented 143 programs and logged 9,588 hours. That's a lot of time! They helped us with sixteen special events and took the conservation message to area communities and events thirteen different times.

Not recorded were all of the "other duties" they engaged in because they are volunteers that care and support our mission. Their dedication and commitment may not be recorded in reports, but it is seen in actions each and every day at the nature center.

A Look Ahead.

As a new year approaches, I look forward to working with these dedicated individuals as they continue to share their knowledge, skills, and passion with our staff and our visitors. I will count on their help as we plan and prepare activities and events to promote and support conservation. I know they will be there for us and for you in so many important ways.

Learn more about our program and how you can join this dedicated group.

Exhibitors

Nature Paintings

by Janis Burgin



I am at my happiest when I am doing, planning or talking about art. I began my art career by becoming a certified "Bob Ross Instructor." I even mastered the Bob Ross technique and gave 30

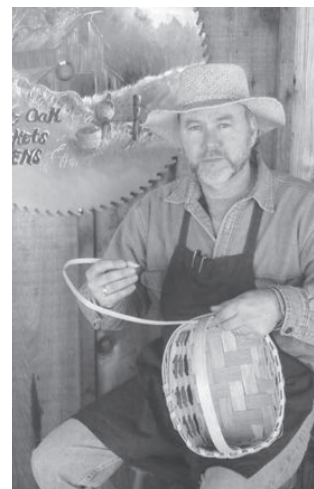
minute demos for several years at the Missouri State Fair. I took and set up classes from various artists around the country, learning several techniques in portraits, animals, florals and landscapes. I enjoy teaching a "painting in a day" most because it is a wonderful feeling to be able to instruct someone with little or no experience and have them complete a painting in just one day. – Janis Burgin

Come to Runge and discover nature through the works of Janis Burgin.

3-Dimensional Art Exhibit

Owens Oak Baskets

Owens Oak Baskets is a generational family owned and operated Ozark business. The family personally harvests, cuts, and splits, all by hand, the white oak that is used in the kits, supplies and baskets. For the next two months Billy Owens is placing their baskets on display at Runge. Don't miss the opportunity to see first-hand 100% organic, hand split, white oak baskets.



Volunteer Open House

If you have an interest in conservation and would like to share it with others, please come to our

Volunteer Open House
on Thursday, January 15
from 6 – 8 PM

If you are unable to attend the Open House, feel free to contact me, Robin Grumm, at 573/526-5544 or robin.grumm@mdc.

For the Little Ones...

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a *Little Acorns* program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver.

On Winter Break...

The **Babes In The Woods** program (children ages 0 through 2 years of age) and the **Little Acorns PLUS** program (families with toddlers and preschoolers) will take a break until spring. Please watch for the March/April issue of *Habitat Happenings* for a listing of these programs.



discover nature programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature>

November

Registration begins November 1st.

573-526-5544

White-tailed Deer

In a single bound, you can see them leap a tall fence, flash white in the blink of an eye, snort, grunt, and stamp their feet. Calling all little "dears" to learn about the life of a white-tailed deer.

Little Acorns

November 7 • Friday • 10 AM

November 8 • Saturday • 10 AM

November 19 • Wednesday • 10 AM



December

Registration begins December 1st

573-526-5544

Winter Nature Tales

It may be cold and dreary outside, but inside is alive with activity found between the pages of books. Otters, salamanders, frogs, and more bring excitement and activity to our program this month.

Little Acorns

December 9 • Tuesday • 10 AM

December 13 • Saturday • 10 AM

December 17 • Wednesday • 10 AM



"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."
Rachel Carson (1907-1964) naturalist, writer, environmentalist

Runge Calendar of Events - November

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



November Events

Registration begins November 1.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

Adventure Birding

November 1 • Saturday • 8–11 AM
Registration required (ages 11 and older). Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Reservations begin on October 20th for this program. We will meet in the old bait shop parking lot at Binder Lake at 8 AM. This time of year, Binder Lake is a hot spot for water birds of many types. Join us for birding and find out about spotting scopes as well. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy walking shoes, and bring water, and binoculars (or borrow one of ours). Binder Park is located off Rainbow Drive and Henwick Lane, 5840 Rainbow Drive, west of Jefferson City.

What's Going On? Let's Get Primitive! Wild Edibles

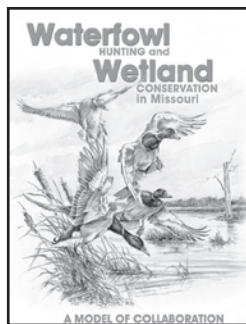
November 1 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Go Wild and experience Missouri's fall wild edibles through displays, activities, and samples from nature's buffet.

Papermaking

November 8 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (ages 9 and older)
Did you know the wasp was the original paper maker? Join us to learn about making handmade paper from pulp – the modern way! We will blend newspaper, magazines, even unwanted junk mail with pieces of nature - seeds, leaves, petals, snake skin, and more - to create not just paper, but works of art! Discover how nature and recycling go hand-in-hand. Learn different techniques to try at home. Please bring several magazines and a bath size towel.

Book Signing Book Supports Wetland Conservation

November 13 • Thursday • 6–7 PM
No registration required (all ages)



chronicles Missouri's success in this area.

This new book will be available for sale (\$40, hardcover, 480 pages) at a book signing in the lobby of Runge Conservation Nature Center. Former waterfowl biologists and wetland managers have donated their services to produce the book. Authors, Ken Babcock, Glenn Chambers, and Dale Humburg will be available to sign books and share their passion with you. A looping powerpoint will highlight important aspects of the book and an exhibit showcasing antique duck decoys used and manufactured in Missouri will be on display from the Joe French Collection. Enjoy a celebration of wetland success with us. All proceeds from sales will be dedicated to wetland and waterfowl conservation.

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, Jefferson City. 330 Commerce Drive.

BUILDING HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM
Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM
Closed Sunday & Monday

TRAIL HOURS:

Open daily 6 AM–9 PM

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/runge-nature-center>

Quality wetlands are important and do not happen by accident. A new book, ***Waterfowl Hunting and Wetland Conservation in Missouri – A Model of Collaboration***,

Story Tree!

November 15 • Saturday • 2–3 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist eager to share a nature story or two with you. You will be delighted with the stories and activities.

Puppet Show: Did You See That?

November 15 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM
No registration required (all ages)
The list of Missouri animal species is growing. River Otter saw an Armadillo. Wild Turkey was not surprised since she glimpsed a Black bear and a bison. Everyone heard White-tailed Deer exclaim, “Did you see that?” when an Elk tramped by. You can see them too! Hear Runge puppets talk about sightings of different animals in our state.

Nature's Needlers

November 20 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon OR 6–7:30 PM
Registration required (ages 18 and older)
This prairie predator is nocturnal and seldom seen but it has a reputation for being aggressive. Join us for the eleventh block in the Missouri Prairie series, the **badger**. Enjoy learning and sharing information with beginning quilters and experienced fiber artists.

Shopping Alternatives: They're back - ELK!

November 28 • Friday • 10 AM–2 PM
No registration required (all ages)
Do you need an alternative from shopping or a holiday retreat? Come to Runge and learn about Missouri elk. Interactive exhibits, discovery table, and activities offered. Don't miss relaxing by our fireplace and viewing the serenity of our wildlife viewing area.

Runge Calendar of Events - December

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.

December Events

Registration begins December 1.

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

What's Going On? Let's Get Primitive! The Art of Flintknapping

December 6 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Members of the River Hills Flintknapping group will be on hand to show visitors this unique skill. Stop in to watch them work and to learn more about how to make tools from stone.

Puppet Show: *Did You See That?*

December 6 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM

No registration required (all ages)

The list of Missouri animal species is growing. River Otter saw an Armadillo. Wild Turkey was not surprised since she glimpsed a Black bear and a bison. Everyone heard White-tailed Deer exclaim, "Did you see that?" when an Elk tramped by. You can see them too! Hear Runge puppets talk about sightings of different animals in our state.

Avian Movements in a Changing World

December 11 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM

No registration required (adults)

Dr. Dylan Kesler, University of Missouri's School of Fisheries and Wildlife Sciences, will provide the newest scientific information about how and where birds move around. Dr. Kesler notes that recent developments in study methods and tracking technologies have brought about great advances in the understanding of movement and population connectivity in mobile animals. His talk will review recent studies about the factors that affect how, where, and when birds move. Sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society.

Nature's Needlers

December 18 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon OR 6–7:30 PM

Registration required (ages 18 and older)

Several species of this reptile inhabit the prairie. Learn more about the importance of the **snake** in the prairie ecosystem. Join us and celebrate the completion of another fun year expressing your creativity through quilting.

Story Tree!

December 20 • Saturday • 2–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Visit the nature center and meet a volunteer naturalist eager to share a nature story or two with you. You will be delighted with the stories and activities.

Holiday Happenings

December 27 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 30 • Tuesday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 31 • Wednesday • 10 AM–3 PM

No registration required (all ages)

It's tradition! Visiting with family and friends is an important part of the holidays. Many folks have made it a tradition to visit Runge Nature Center over the holidays to enjoy a variety of programs and activities. We hope you are one of them. If not, start your tradition this year!

Winter Day Adventure for KIDS

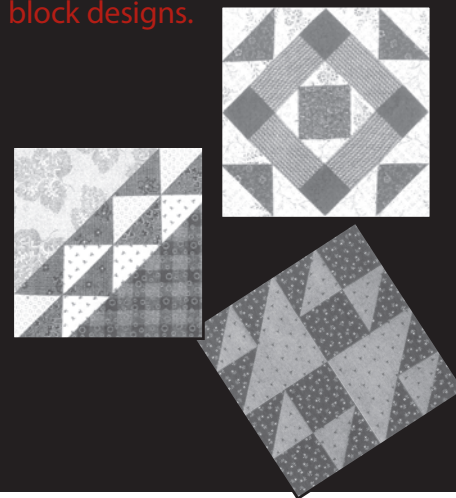
January 2 • Friday • 9 AM–3 PM

Registration required (ages 9-12 years)

Winter Day Adventure is for YOU! Come celebrate the year with "seasoned" naturalists exploring and discovering nature at Runge on and off the trails. Identify an animal track; learn to read a trail map; read animal signs; peer into a frozen pond; climb on a 150-year old log. Please dress for the weather. Bring a lunch and water bottle. We will come indoors for activities and to warm up with hot cocoa.

2015–A Woodland Tapestry

Nature's Needlers invites you to follow them down the path as they explore another exciting Natural Community in Missouri – a Woodland. Create a Woodland Tapestry using traditional quilt block designs.



Adventure Birding

The Adventure Birding program is taking a break this month. You can keep your birding skills sharp by participating in the 114th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The "Count" is the longest running Citizen Science Survey in the world. It provides critical data on population trends. It is also great fun, even for novice bird watchers. To find out more about the Christmas Bird Count see <<http://birds.audubon.org/about-christmas-bird-count>>.

Runge Conservation Nature Center will be closed
on the following days:

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

Gift Shop...

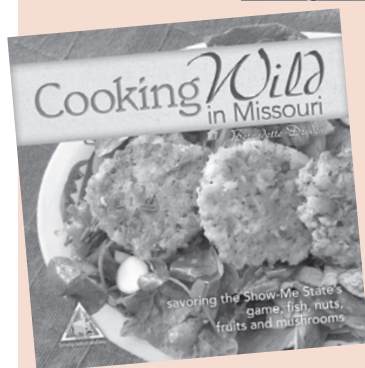
20% Featured items

Cardinal and Bluebird

Notecards

\$6.40

plus tax*



Cooking Wild In Missouri
\$12.00 plus tax*

*The Heritage Card does not apply.

What's Going On?

Every Saturday At Runge
10 AM–2 PM

No registration required (all ages)

Runge Conservation Nature Center offers exploratory tables, activities, and/or crafts every Saturday throughout the year. Stop in to see what adventure awaits you during our "What's Going On?" at the nature center.

Calling All Hikers

Exploring the great outdoors

Runge has three volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center and drive to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

Half-Day Discovery Hikes

November 15 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon Registration begins November 1st.
Registration required (ages 8 and older - children must be accompanied by an adult)
Location: Cedar Creek National Forest, southeast of Columbia.
Trail Length: 2 miles Terrain: Slight inclines and/or few obstructions.
Focus: Survival Skills

December • Half-Day Discovery Hikes will take off this month and resume in the spring of 2015.

Midweek Trekkers

November 12 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration begins November 1st.
Registration required (adults)
Location: LaBarque Creek Conservation Area. Located in Jefferson County, near Pacific.
Trail Length: 3 miles Terrain: Significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks.
Notes: Bring lunch.

December 17 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM Registration begins December 1st.
Registration required (adults)
Location: Woodson K. Woods Memorial Conservation Area. Located Southeast of St. James on Highway 8 in Phelps County.
Trail Length: 5 miles Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.
Notes: Bring lunch.

The Hiking Club

November 22 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM Registrations begin November 1st.
Registration required (adults)
Location: Lake of the Ozarks State Park. Located in Kaiser.
Trail Length: 5.5 miles Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.
Notes: Bring lunch.

December 13 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM Registrations begin December 1st.
Registration required (adults)
Location: Arrow Rock State Historic Site. Located in Arrow Rock.
Trail Length: 3 miles Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.
Notes: Bring lunch.

Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

Conservation Kids' club is a club created for **kids 6–12 years** who love to explore nature. When you make your reservation 573-526-5544, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

WELKome Back!

November 18 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM *Registration required (November 1 through November 14)*

Heed the bugle call and join CKC this month to learn about Missouri elk. Delve into their history, biology, and importance to our Missouri landscape through fun and interactive elk activities.



No December meeting as Bubba is spending time with his family. See you next year.

Parents/Guardians! While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members on Tuesday, November 18.

Please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.



Vitamin 'N' for Nature

Connecting with Nature

vitamin
for
nature

Vitamin 'N' for Nature; Connecting with the natural side of things, and in the process reaping many health benefits.

Get your Vitamin 'N' for Nature even in the winter months!

- The winter sky is clear and bright. Go outside and stargaze one evening.
- Listen for the calling of the owls at night.
- Search for "frost" flowers.
- Winter trees look different without their leaves. Put pencil to paper and draw their shapes.
- Climb a tree!
- Feed the birds.
- Learn to whistle using an acorn cap.

2014 Holiday Happenings

December 27 • Saturday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 30 • Tuesday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 31 • Wednesday • 10 AM–3 PM

- stories by the fire • nature walks • primitive skills demonstrations • crafts • refreshments • and more.

No registration required (all ages)

It's Tradition!

Eagle Adventure

January 24, 2015

10 AM–2 PM

- Activities in the Nature Center Lobby.
- Live Eagle Presentation at 10AM, 11AM, and 1PM
- Eagle Viewing Sites with High-powered scopes

